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Parks & Recreation Department

William A. DeMaio, CPRP
Superintendent of Parks
and Recreation

February 06, 2023

Testimony in Opposition of House Bill No. 6574

Good morning, State Representatives. I am Hadeel Majdoub, a Recreation Supervisor at the Newington Parks and Recreation, and I am here to voice my strong opposition to Raised Bill #6574.

As a Recreation Supervisor, I understand the importance of ensuring the safety of children who attend youth camp programs. However, I strongly believe that the proposed licensing requirements will not only create an excessive burden on these programs but may also limit the number of children who can attend.

Let me elaborate on some of the specific points of concern. Firstly, the requirement for an APRN/physician to be readily available on-site at all times and sign off on med admin logs weekly is not feasible. This would put an excessive burden on the APRN/physician and may lead to difficulties in finding a qualified individual to fill this role.

Furthermore, the requirement to collect and review health and immunization records is would require additional administrative staff although we currently have an efficient and safe process in collecting records. Having these records available on-site at all times and during field trips may put the confidentiality and privacy of the children and staff members at risk.

The requirement for individual care plans to be approved by OEC prior to camp is overly bureaucratic and may cause delays in starting the camp. Additionally, requiring onsite staff to be trained by an APRN/physician consultant may be difficult to coordinate and may lead to additional costs for the camp program.

The OEC does not have enough staff to handle the proposed inspections, which may lead to delays in starting the camp program. The requirement to have all background checks done through the OEC website is costly and may create an administrative burden. Additionally, it is not clear if DCF has enough staff to handle the proposed DCF checks, and this will result in increased pricing of the camps to make up for the over \$5,700 that will be spent on background checks through the OEC.

The requirement to perform employment history checks for anyone over 18 years of age may create an administrative burden and may not be feasible for all camp programs. The requirement

to have an onsite director of first aid who is 21 years of age and CPR certified may be difficult to find and may lead to additional costs for the camp program. Similarly, the requirement for a separate waterfront director for water sports and swim lessons may also be difficult to fulfill and may lead to reduction in camp hours of operations or slots.

The proposed ratios and age requirements for counselors and LITs may be difficult to meet and may limit the number of children who can attend the camp. Our LIT program includes 13-year-olds as it is curriculum-based and teaches leadership skills through classroom-type learning sessions. The proposed facility requirements, such as ratios of toilets and sinks to campers, may be difficult to meet, especially in remote locations. Our 4-8 grade site is at a park. The requirement to have a quarantine/isolation site with toileting and sink at each camp site may not be feasible in all locations and may lead to additional costs for the camp program.

In conclusion, I implore you to reconsider the proposed licensing requirements for youth camp programs. The proposed requirements may create an excessive burden on these programs and may limit the number of children who can attend. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hadeel Majdoub

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